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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01168 050836 Z

53
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 PPT-02 SCA-01

TRSE-00 SPM-01 RSR-01 /125 W
---------- 113928
R 041538 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9857
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O.11652: N/ A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SPOP, SW XZ
SUBJECT: SWEDEN STOPS NON- NORDIC IMMIGRATION; UNEMPLOYMENT
GIVEN AS REASON

REF: STOCKHOLM A-93 OF MARCH 13, 1973 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: MINISTER OF LABOR ANNOUNCED APRIL 2 THAT IMMI-
GRATION WORK PERMITS WILL NOT RPT NOT BE GRANTED NON- NORDICS IN
ORDER TO PROTECT SWEDISH WORKERS. ONLY FELLOW SCANDINAVIANS AND
POLITICAL REFUGEES EXEMPT FROM NEW RULING. ACTION HAS EFFECT
OF BLOCKING NON- NORDIC IMMIGRATION. CONTINUED HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT
GIVEN AS REASON, BUT SEPTEMBER PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS CLEARLY
PLAYED PART IN ANNOUNCEMENT AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY

1. MINISTER OF LABOR ERIC HOLMQUIST ANNOUNCED APRIL 2 THAT AS
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LONG AS SWEDEN HAS UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM NO WORK PERMITS WOULD BE GRANTED NON- NORDICS SEEKING TO COME TO SWEDEN. POLITICAL REFUGEES AND FELLOW SCANS EXEMPTED FROM NEW RULING, ALTHOUGH CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH FINLAND EXPECTED TO RESULT IN ALSO LIMITING ACCESS BY FINNS TO SWEDISH LABOR MARKET. EFFECT IS TO BLOCK FOR INDETERMINATE PERIOD ALL IMMIGRATION FROM OUTSIDE SCANDINAVIA.

2. REASON GIVEN IS CONTINUED HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT. HOLMQUIST CITED FEBRUARY 73 FIGURES OF 83,000 UNEMPLOYED REGISTERED WITH LABOR SERVICE, INCLUDING 5,000 FOREIGNERS. (STATISTICAL SURVEY FOR SAME MONTH LISTED 126,000.) HE SAID SWEDEN MUST FIND JOBS FOR UNEMPLOYED SWEDES BEFORE ALLOWING MORE IMMIGRATION. FOREIGNERS ALREADY HERE (400,000) WERE NOR RPT NOT AFFECTED.

3. SWEDISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (LO) SUPPORTING MOVE AS NECESSARY SHORT- TERM REMEDY, BUT ANTICIPATE EMPLOYER ATTEMPTS TO WEAKEN RULING AS SUPPLY OF FINNISH LABOR DIMINISHES. EMPLOYER PROTESTING THAT CURRENT PROCEDURES IN WHICH IMMIGRATION REQUESTS ARE MATCHED AGAINST AVAILABILITY OF SWEDISH LABOR BEFORE PERMISSION TO IMPORT FOREIGNER IS GRANTED ALREADY PROTECT SWEDISH MANPOWER. THEREFORE TOTAL STOP, WHICH FEEDS CHAUVINISM AND ANTI- FOREIGNER BIAS, UNNECESSARY AND POTENTIALLY HARMFUL.

4. COMMENT: SEPTEMBER PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS CLEARLY ENTERED INTO HOLMQUIDM DECISION. FOR EXAMPLE 1) HOLMQUIST CITED HIGHER FEBRUARY UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES THAT THOSE FOR MARCH WHICH SHOWED DROP OF 5,000; 2) 1972 WAS FIRST YEAR IN MANY DECADES IN WHICH SWEDEN HAD NET POPULATION OUTFLOW; 3) ALTHOUGH EMPLOYMENT IS LAGGING BEHIND OTHER INDICATORS, GENERAL ECONOMIC UPTURN WOULD TEND AT THIS POINT TO SUPPORT THE TYPE OF OFFICIAL OPTIMISM WHICH HAS BEEN STANDARD DURING PAST TWO YEARS; 4) MANY OF CURRENT UNEMPLOYED ARE HARD- CORE WHO WILL STILL NOT FIND EMPLOYMENT. IT APPARENT THAT AS ELECTION DRAWS NEAR GOVERNMENT SENSITIVITY TO CHARGES OF TOO- LITTLE, TOO LATE RE UNEMPLOYMENT IS GROWING. MEASURE HAS POLTICIAL VIRTURE OF BEING DEMONSTRABLE EFFORT TO PROTECT SWEDISH WORKER EVEN IF IT FLIES IN FACE OF SWEDISH SELF-IMAGE OF HOSPITABLE HAVEN FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED.
OLSEN

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TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SPOP, SW, XZ, PINT, SPOP
To: ANKARA
BELGRADE
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EC BRUSSELS
EUR
HELSINKI

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